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NEW CHAPTER IN NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROLS

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN HAS THESE THOUGHTS ON THE TREATY ESTABLISHING NEW CONTROLS FOR UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTING BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES...

VOICE: IT TOOK THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION THIRTY YEARS TO REACH THE POINT WHERE THEY STAND TODAY IN RELATION TO EFFECTIVE NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROLS. (OPT) IN 1946, THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED TO THE FIRST UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY A PLAN ALONG THOSE LINES. A KEY FEATURE OF THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL -- CALLED THE "BARUCH PLAN" FOR BERNARD BARUCH, THE U.S. DELEGATE WHO PRESENTED IT -- WAS ON-SITE INSPECTION OF WHAT EACH NATION WITH A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY WAS DOING TO TEST AND MANUFACTURE ATOMIC MATERIALS FOR PEACEFUL AND MILITARY USE. (END OPT) THE SOVIET UNION REJECTED THE BARUCH PLAN, MAINLY BECAUSE OF MOSCOW'S OBJECTIONS TO THE ON-SITE INSPECTION PROVISION.

IN THE NEXT THREE DECADES, THE UNITED STATES SOUGHT REPEATEDLY TO OBTAIN SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THAT PRINCIPLE -- BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS HOWEVER, BOTH NATIONS HAVE AGREED IN THE PAST TO LIMITED TYPES OF VERIFICATION SUCH AS MONITORING OF EACH OTHER'S NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES BY WHAT THEIR ARMS CONTROL EXPERTS CALL "NATIONAL MEANS." THIS, IN FACT, IS A EUPHEMISM FOR HEAVY RELIANCE ON MODERN TECHNICAL DEVICES BY WHICH EACH NATION SIGNATORY TO AN ARMS CONTROL ACCORD -- SALT ONE, FOR INSTANCE -- CAN CHECK ON THE OTHER'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION. BUT THIS METHOD, IN THE AMERICAN VIEW, IS NOWHERE AS FAIL-PROOF AS DIRECT, ON-SITE INSPECTION.

(OPT) HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS PROVIDING FOR VERIFICATION GOING BEYOND TECHNICAL MONITORING BY REMOTE MEANS

HAVE ALREADY BEEN SIGNED. THESE INCLUDE THE 1959 ANTARCTIC TREATY, THE OUTER SPACE TREATY OF 1967 AND THE 1968 NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. (END OPT)

IT WAS NOT UNTIL TWO YEARS AGO, IN THE MOST RECENT NEGOTIATIONS TO BAN UNDERGROUND TESTS THAT THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE FIRST TIME RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR SOME ON-SITE INSPECTIONS.

THAT ACCEPTANCE FINDS EXPRESSION IN THE TREATY SIGNED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON FRIDAY. THE NEGOTIATIONS SURROUNDING IT WERE COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT AND TOOK TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE. THE ACTUAL DISCUSSIONS GOT UNDERWAY IN OCTOBER OF 1974 IN MOSCOW AND LASTED UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF LAST MONTH THROUGH SIX ROUNDS OF TALKS. BUT THEIR INCEPTION GOES BACK TO THE 1974 NIXON-BREZHNEV SUMMIT IN MOSCOW WHICH PRODUCED THE TREATY LIMITING THE YIELD OF UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS BY EITHER PARTY TO ONE HUNDRED FIFTY KILOTONS. THE JUST-SIGNED TREATY SETS THE SAME LIMITS FOR UNDERGROUND TESTS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

BEYOND THAT, THE NEWLY-SIGNED TREATY HAS OTHER EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS. IT REPRESENTS A BREAK-THROUGH IN PERSUADING MOSCOW TO ACCEPT ON-SITE INSPECTION, A PRECEDENT THAT -- AS PRESIDENT FORD NOTED AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY HERE IN WASHINGTON - MAY "LEAD TO FURTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN BUILDING A STABLE AND JUST PEACE FOR OUR TWO PEOPLES AND FOR MANKIND."

MOREOVER -- ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT FORD DID NOT SAY IT -- THE NEW TREATY PROVIDES CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT BOTH MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON ARE DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW RECENT TENSIONS BETWEEN THEM OVER SUCH ISSUES AS ANGOLA TO DIVERT THEM FROM THEIR OVER-RIDING AIM. THAT AIM IS TO BRING THE WORLD NUCLEAR PROBLEM UNDER SOME FORM OF EFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE. FOR BOTH MOSCOW AND

WASHINGTON RECOGNIZE THAT NO MORE PRESSING PROBLEM FACES THEM OR THE REST OF THE WORLD. IN OTHER WORDS, THE NEW TREATY ON PEACEFUL TESTS, AND THE COMPANION PACT THAT SETS UP CONTROLS FOR MILITARY NUCLEAR TESTING, ARE LONG STEPS IN HUMANITY'S CENTURIES-LONG SEARCH FOR A SECURE PEACE.

THAT THE PRESIDENT SENT THEM ON TO THE SENATE THIS WEEKEND FOR RATIFICATION IS IN ITSELF MORE THAN JUST SYMBOLIC. FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ACTION COMES AT A TIME JUST PRECEDING MEMORIAL DAY -- A DAY IN WHICH ALL AMERICANS TRADITIONALLY HONOR THEIR WAR DEAD AND REDEDICATE THEMSELVES TO THE PERMANENT BANISHMENT OF WAR AS AN INSTRUMENT IN THE CONDUCT OF RELATIONS AMONG NATIONS.

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